



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 9, 2003

Mr. Andrew Bradford
1476 West South Jordan Parkway
South Jordan, Utah 84095-8849

Re: Portal Closure & Denial of Request to Close File, Andrew Bradford, Joker Mine,
S/037/103, San Juan County, Utah

Dear Mr. Bradford:

On March 27, 2003, Ted McDougall of the Bureau of Land Management and I visited the Joker Mine. A copy of the inspection report is enclosed. The portal and ventilation shaft were open although I understand there had been a metal gate over the portal. You requested that the site be released by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining from further reclamation requirements, but because these openings have not been reclaimed, we cannot release the site at this time. Therefore, the permit fee remains due and payable within the next 30 days. Another billing statement is enclosed for this purpose.

Rather than installing a gate, I strongly encourage you to backfill the portal. There is ample backfill material available near the portal, and this material can be removed if you decide to reenter the mine. A backfilled portal is much more difficult to enter than one that is simply gated. The Division might be willing to allow a gate, but it would need to be securely installed and made of materials that could not be easily cut. Before you actually put in a gate, you should contact both the Division and the Bureau of Land Management to ensure your design is acceptable.

Some type of portal closure, whether temporary or permanent, needs to be done right away. Minerals Rule R647-3-107 says:

1. Public Safety and Welfare - The operator shall minimize hazards to the public safety and welfare during operations. Methods to minimize hazards shall include but not be limited to:


1.11. The closing or guarding of shafts and tunnels to prevent unauthorized or accidental entry ...

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Although I realize that you do not live in the area of the mine, I anticipate that you should be able to either temporarily or permanently close the portal within the next two months or by June 9, 2003. If you cannot meet this deadline, please contact me so we can work out a schedule. The shaft would also need to be reclaimed before the Division could release the site.

I appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions about this letter or about reclamation or other requirements, please call me at 801-538-5261.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P B Baker', with a stylized, cursive script.

Paul B. Baker
Senior Reclamation Biologist

jb
Enclosure: Inspection report with photo attachment
cc: Ted McDougall, Monticello BLM
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